

Office of Melter & Refiner  
U. S. Mint, at Philad<sup>a</sup>

6 March, 1886.

Hon. Daniel M. Fox,  
Superintendent of the U. S. Mint at Philad<sup>a</sup>.

My dear Sir,

I acknowledge yours of Febr<sup>y</sup>  
27<sup>th</sup> enclosing a copy of a letter of the Director of  
the Mint to you, with the request to notice the re-  
quirements therein contained.

By that letter I read that you are directed  
"to inform the Melter and Refiner of your Mint  
that he is responsible under his bond for this bul-  
lion, and that he will be required to procure and  
deposit with you 1980 $\frac{12}{100}$  ounces of Standard Silver."

I am advised that I am in no wise respon-  
sible under my bond, for the bullion referred to,  
and I invite a suit on my bond that the same  
may be judicially determined.

I have not a copy of my bond, but I be-  
lieve that it is drawn in accordance with Sec.  
3501 of Revised Statutes of the U. S. "with con-  
dition for the faithful and diligent performance of



of the duties of my office, and this condition I am advised does not include the case of an undoubted theft by any one not under my control.

As I have an accurate register of the bars used in melting at this Mint, I was convinced as early as January 5, 1885, that the three bars which compose the bullion referred to in the letter of the Director had been stolen, and I advised your predecessor of their loss in a letter of which the following is a copy:

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia.

Melting & Refining Department.

Philad<sup>a</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 1885.

Sir

A lot of Silver bars (invoiced 208) was received 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 1884, and after being debited to me, was deposited as usual on the stone floor in front (North) of Mr Cochrane's room.

When we wished to employ them on Saturday last, the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1885, three of the bars could not be found, nor can we find any account of



of their use for melting or refining.

Nevertheless their apparent, if not real, loss necessarily awakens in me much anxiety of mind, when I observe the large number of silver bars lying on the stone floor, and debited to me. I am the more anxious when I learn that we have had strange workmen in the Mint continuing their work until the darkness of 6 P.M.

Very respectfully,

J. H. Booth

M. & R.

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden

Superintendent.

”

In reply to that letter the then Superintendent deemed it prudent to await the account which would take place in the following June, as he thought these bars might be still among the many bars piled on the floor of the court-yard of the Mint, and that no certainty could exist of their abstraction without such winding up, and in accordance with my suggestion and his judgment he caused to be erected the present heavy wire cages to enclose each pile



pile of bars under lock and Key.

In making the late closure of accounts upon your appointment, the three missing bars could not be found, and I felt called upon, on July 8<sup>th</sup> 1885, to inform you of my undoubted belief in their theft.

I am convinced of the theft of these bars by some visitor by reason of the discovery of a stolen bar in New York, which was in an adjacent pile and which theft is now the subject of a pending indictment.

As I have no control over the watchmen or visitors, and am without authority to introduce such physical appliances as insure safety, I must resist any assertion of liability on my part.

These facts were substantially known to the Director, as he refers to them on pages, 14, 20, and 35 of his Annual Report (the 13<sup>th</sup>).

yours very truly

J. A. C. Booth

M. & R.



2498

Phila. Pa.

March 6/86.

Jas. C. Booth.  
M & R.

Has recd Supt's letter of 27<sup>th</sup> with  
Copy of one from Director of the  
Mint saying that "M & R is  
responsible under his Bond  
for the (missing) Bullion".

Is advised that he is in no  
way responsible under his Bond  
for this Bullion & invites Supt  
on his Bond that same may  
be judicially determined.

Adds remarks & Copy of a  
Letter from Supt.



[Abstract:] Has recd. Supts. letter of 27" with copy of one from Director of the Mint...

Office of Melter & Refiner  
U.S. Mint at Philada.  
March 6, 1886

Hon. Daniel M. Fox,  
Superintendent of the U.S. Mint at Philada.

My dear Sir,

I acknowledge yours of February 27th inclosing a copy of a letter of the Director of the Mint to you, with the request to notice the requirements therein contained.

By that letter I read that you are directed "to inform the Melter and Refiner of your Mint that he is responsible under his bond for this bullion, and that he will be required to procure and deposit with you 1980 12/100 ounces of Standard Silver."

I am advised that I am in no wise responsible under my bond, for the bullion referred to, and I invite a suit on my bond that the same may be judicially determined.

I have not a copy of my bond, but I believe that it is drawn in accordance with Sec. 3501 of Revised Statutes of the U.S. "with condition for the faithful and diligent performance of the duties" of my office, and this condition I am advised does not include the case of an undoubted theft by anyone not under my control.

As I have an accurate register of the bars used in melting at this Mint, I was convinced as early as January 5, 1885, that the three bars which compose the bullion referred to in the letter of the Director had been stolen, and I advised your predecessor of their loss in a letter of which the following is a copy:

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia.  
Melting & Refining Department  
Philada.  
January 5, 1885

Sir

A lot of silver bars (invoiced 208) was received 2nd and 3rd December 1884, and after being debited to me, was deposited as usual on the stone floor in front (North) of Mr. Cochran's room.

When we wished to employ them on Saturday last, the 3rd January 1885, three of the bars could not be found, nor can we find any account of their use for melting or refining.

Nevertheless their apparent, if not real, loss necessarily awakens in me much anxiety of mind, when I observe the large number of silver bars lying on the stone floor, and debited to me. I am the more anxious when I learn that we have had strange workmen in the Mint continuing their work until the darkness of 6 P.M.

Very respectfully,  
Jas. C. Booth  
M & R

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden  
Superintendent.

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Yours very truly,  
Jas. C. Booth  
M & R